

IDW

1

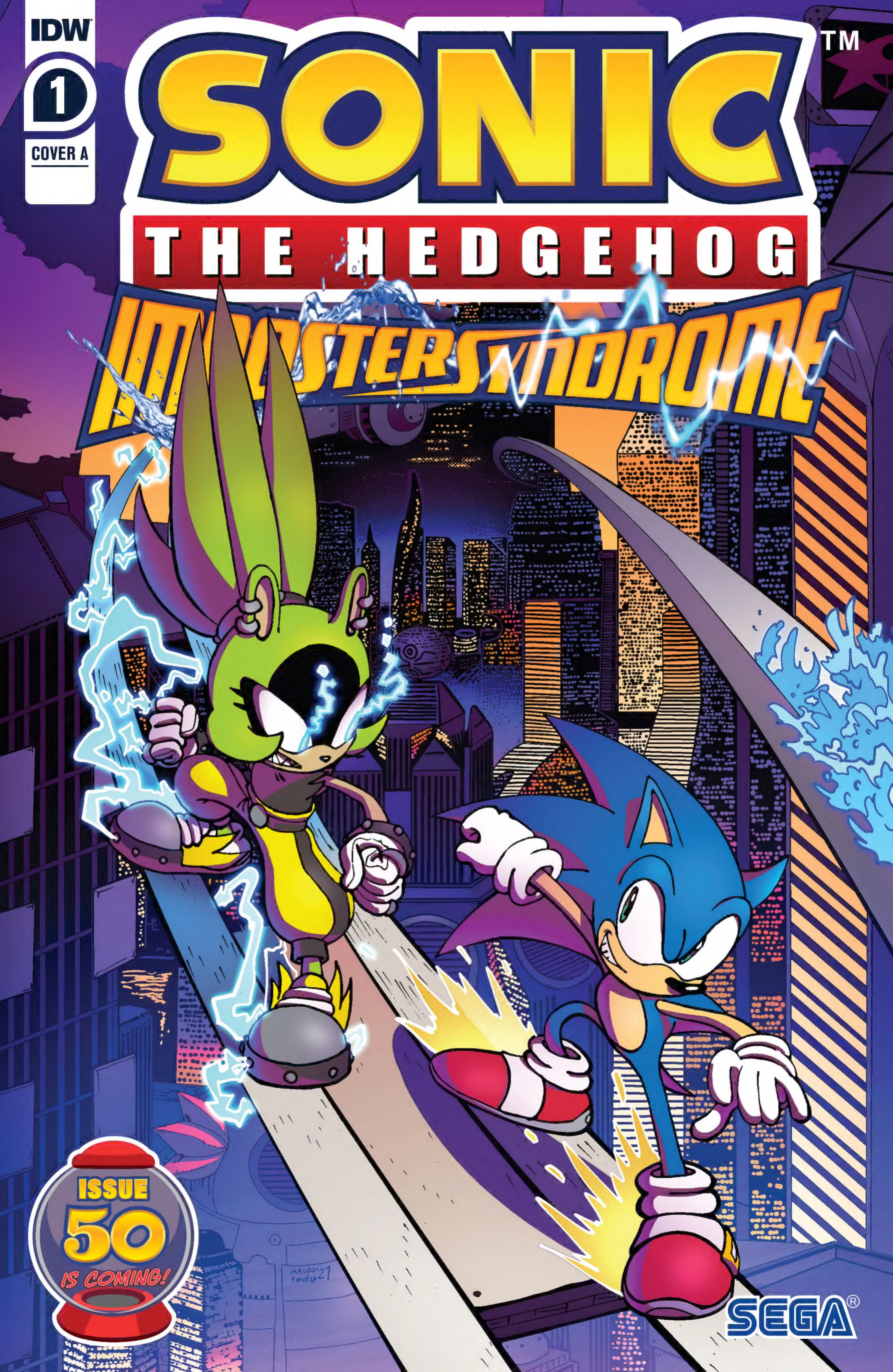
COVER A

TM

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME



ISSUE

50

IS COMING!

SEGA®

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

STORY **IAN FLYNN**

ART **THOMAS ROTH LISBERGER**

AARON HAMMERSTROM (PAGES 8-12)

INKS **MATT FROESE** (PAGES 8-12)

COLORS **VALENTINA PINTO**

LETTERS **SHAWN LEE**

ASSISTANT EDITOR **RILEY FARMER**

EDITOR **DAVID MARIOTTE**



Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com

IDW
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Nachie Marsham, Publisher • Blake Kobashigawa, VP of Sales • Tara McCrillis, VP Publishing Operations • John Barber, Editor-in-Chief • Mark Doyle, Editorial Director, Originals • Lauren LePera, Managing Editor • Joe Hughes, Director, Talent Relations • Anna Morrow, Sr. Marketing Director • Keith Davidsen, Director, Marketing & PR • Topher Alford, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • Jamie Miller, Sr. Operations Manager • Nathan Widick, Sr. Art Director, Head of Design • Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • Shawn Lee, Art Director, Design & Production • Jack Rivera, Art Director, Marketing

Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders



Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing • Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing)
YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing • Instagram: [@idwpublishing](https://instagram.com/idwpublishing)



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: IMPOSTER SYNDROME #1, NOVEMBER 2021. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. © 2021 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

"OPERATION:
REMASTER" IS
MOVING INTO ITS
FINAL TESTING
STAGES.

WITH
THIS, I WILL
FINALLY BE ABLE
TO BREAK WHAT I
AFFECTIONATELY
CALL "THE SONIC
CYCLE."

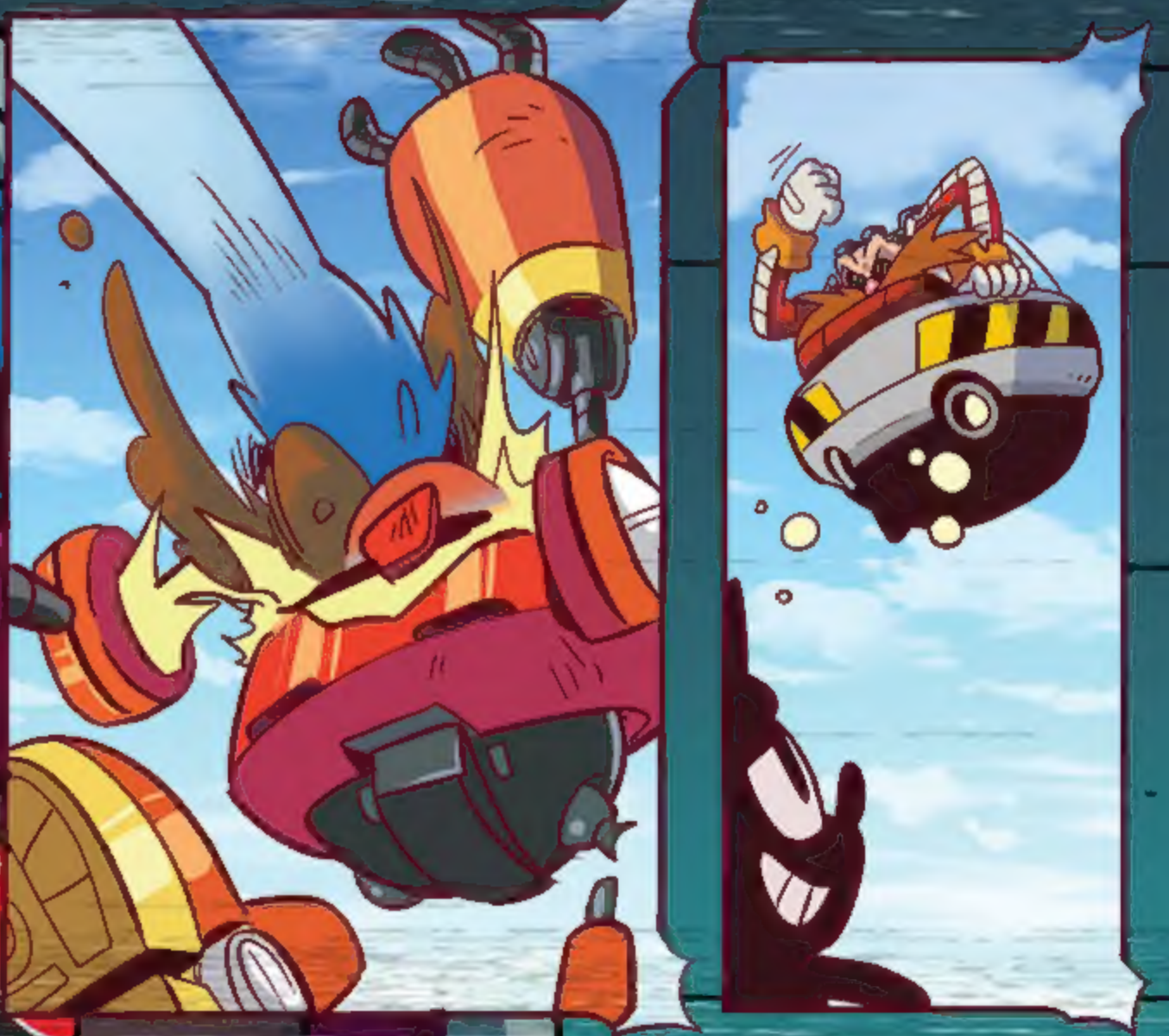
FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

TO WIT:
DR. EGGMAN
STAGES A
BOLD PLAN TO
RESHAPE THE
WORLD...



FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

...SONIC
ARRIVES,
SOMETIMES WITH
HIS MENAGERIE OF
FRIENDS, TO RUIN
EVERYTHING...



FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

...UNTIL FINALLY
THE DAY IS "SAVED."
THE GENERAL POPULACE
REBUILDS AND RETURNS
TO THEIR REGULAR LIVES.

NO
EVOLUTION.
NO VISION. NO
FUTURE.



FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

THANKFULLY, I'M HERE.
STEP ONE OF "OPERATION:
REMASTER" WILL BE TO
REMOVE DR. EGGMAN
FROM PLAY.



HE IS A
REVOLUTIONARY, A
VISIONARY, AND GROOMS
A FINE MUSTACHE. BUT HE
GETS TUNNEL-VISION WHEN
IT COMES TO SONIC.

I HAVE
STUDIED UNDER THE
MASTER, SEEN HIS
FEW SHORT-COMINGS,
AND PERFECTED
HIS TECHNIQUE.

HE'LL
THANK ME IN
THE END. I'M
SURE OF IT.

FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

STEP TWO:
REPLACE THE
SO-CALLED "HEROES"
WHO STAND IN
THE WAY OF
PROGRESS.

THE
GENERAL
POPULACE RELIES
ON THEM FAR TOO
MUCH, BUT IT'S FAR
SIMPLER TO REPLACE
A FEW CELEBRITIES
THAN CHANGE
SOCIETY.



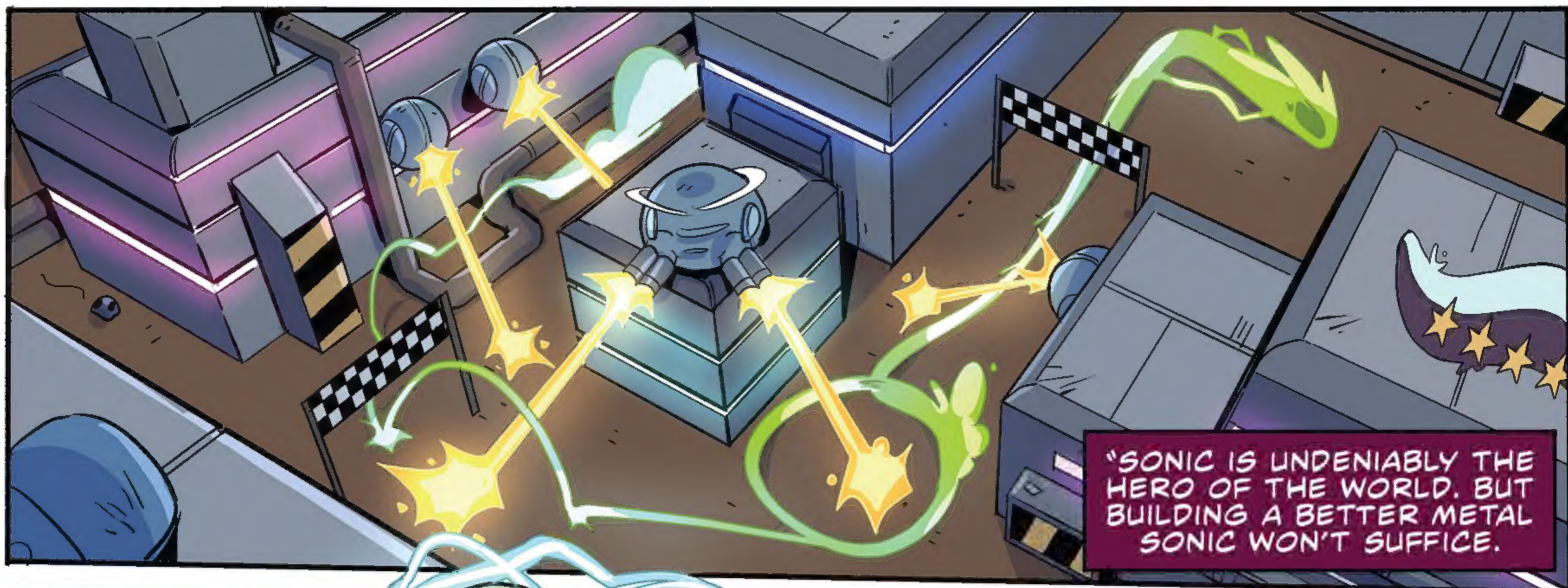
BY CONTROLLING
THE "HERO-VERSUS-
VILLAIN" DYNAMIC, I
WILL BE ABLE TO
SHAPE THE WORLD
AND ITS PEOPLE
WITH THE VERY
THEATRICS THEY'VE
BECOME SO
ACCUSTOMED TO.

FILE: 1M9-SYM-001

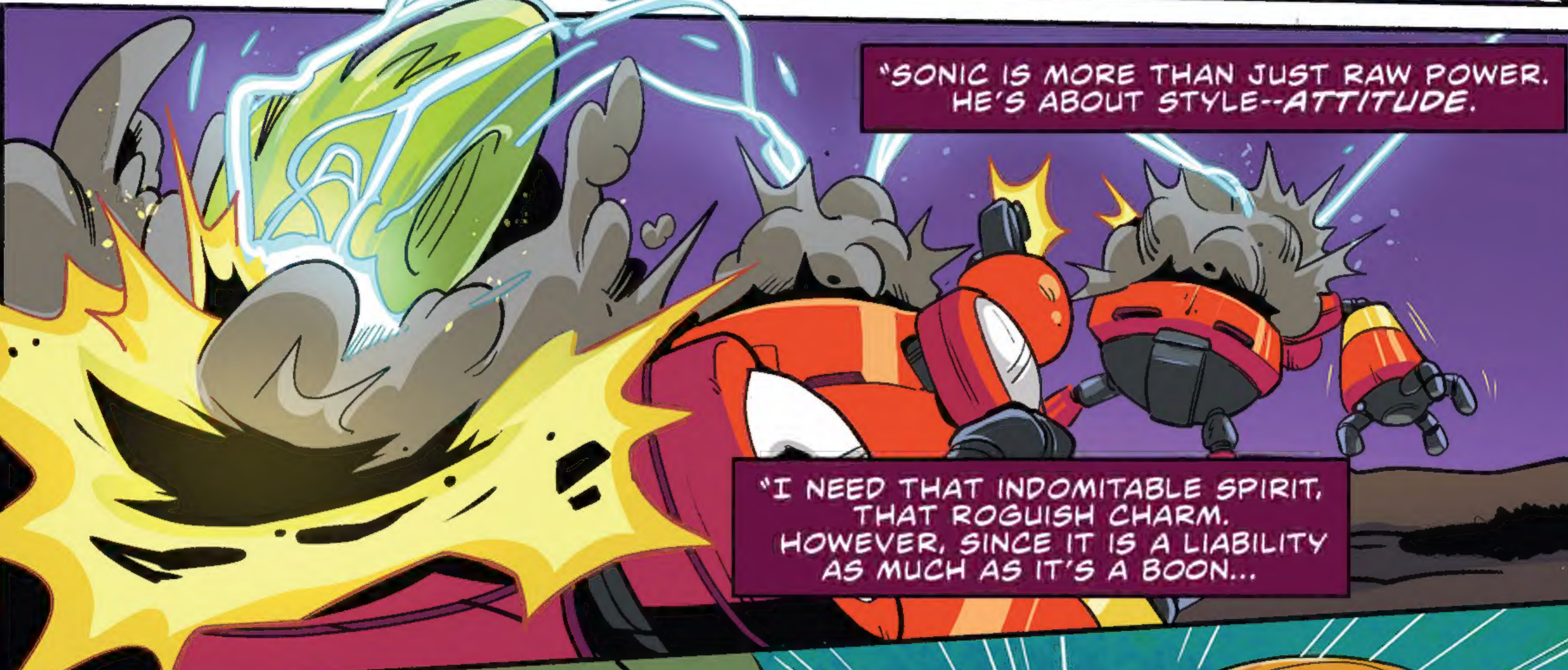
IT'S BEEN AN
ARDUOUS JOURNEY TO
GATHER AND ASSEMBLE
ALL THE NECESSARY
COMPONENTS TO MAKE
THIS PLAN WORK.



BUT NOW,
AT LONG LAST...
THEY'RE READY!



"SONIC IS UNDENIABLY THE HERO OF THE WORLD. BUT BUILDING A BETTER METAL SONIC WON'T SUFFICE."



"SONIC IS MORE THAN JUST RAW POWER. HE'S ABOUT STYLE--ATTITUDE."

"I NEED THAT INDOMITABLE SPIRIT, THAT ROGUE CHARM. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS A LIABILITY AS MUCH AS IT'S A BOON..."

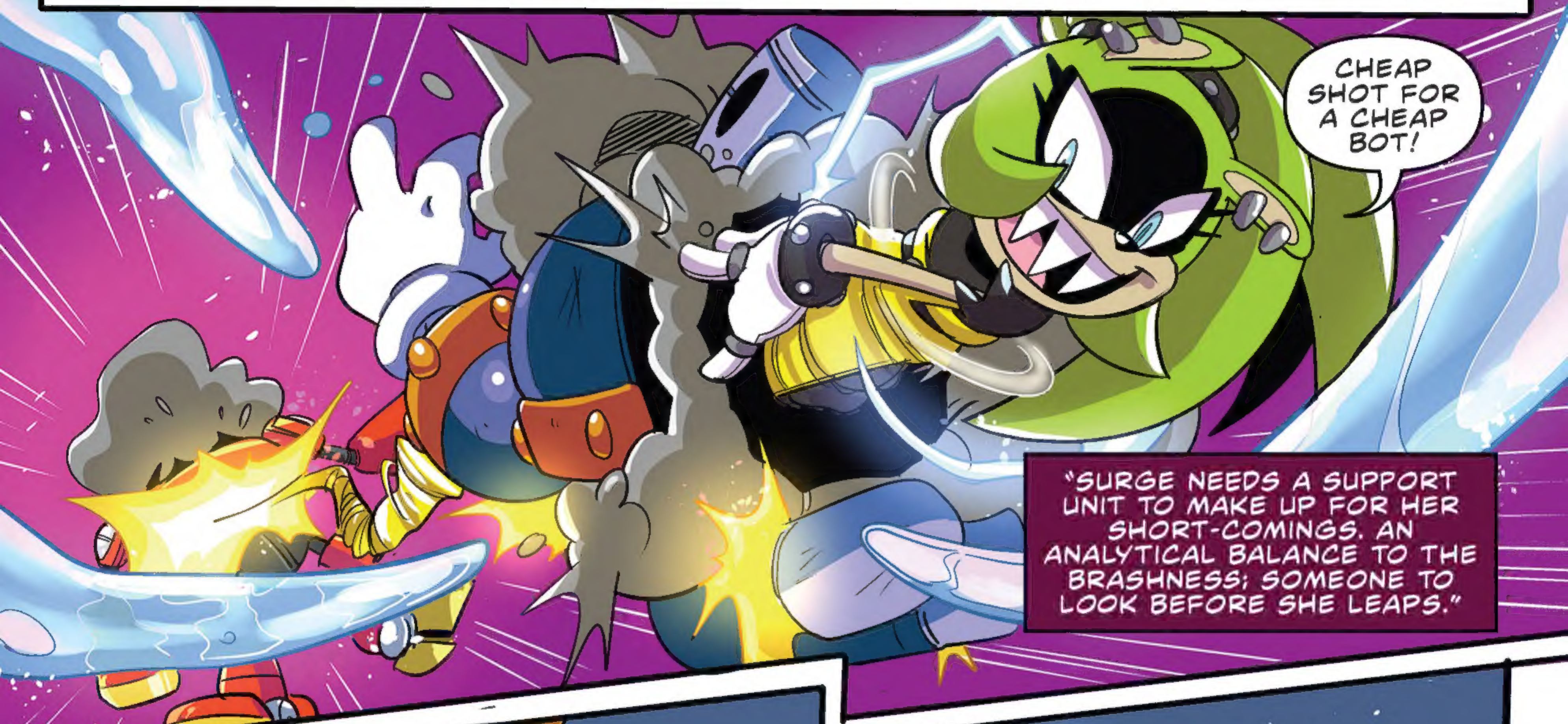


"...SURGE WILL REPLACE HIM, AND I WILL KEEP THE BRAVADO ON A LEASH."

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TOUCH ME? PATHETIC!



"AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THERE ARE 'DESIGN FLAWS' INHERENT IN SONIC."



CHEAP SHOT FOR A CHEAP BOT!

"SURGE NEEDS A SUPPORT UNIT TO MAKE UP FOR HER SHORT-COMINGS. AN ANALYTICAL BALANCE TO THE BRASHNESS; SOMEONE TO LOOK BEFORE SHE LEAPS."



NICE ASSIST, KID. DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD.

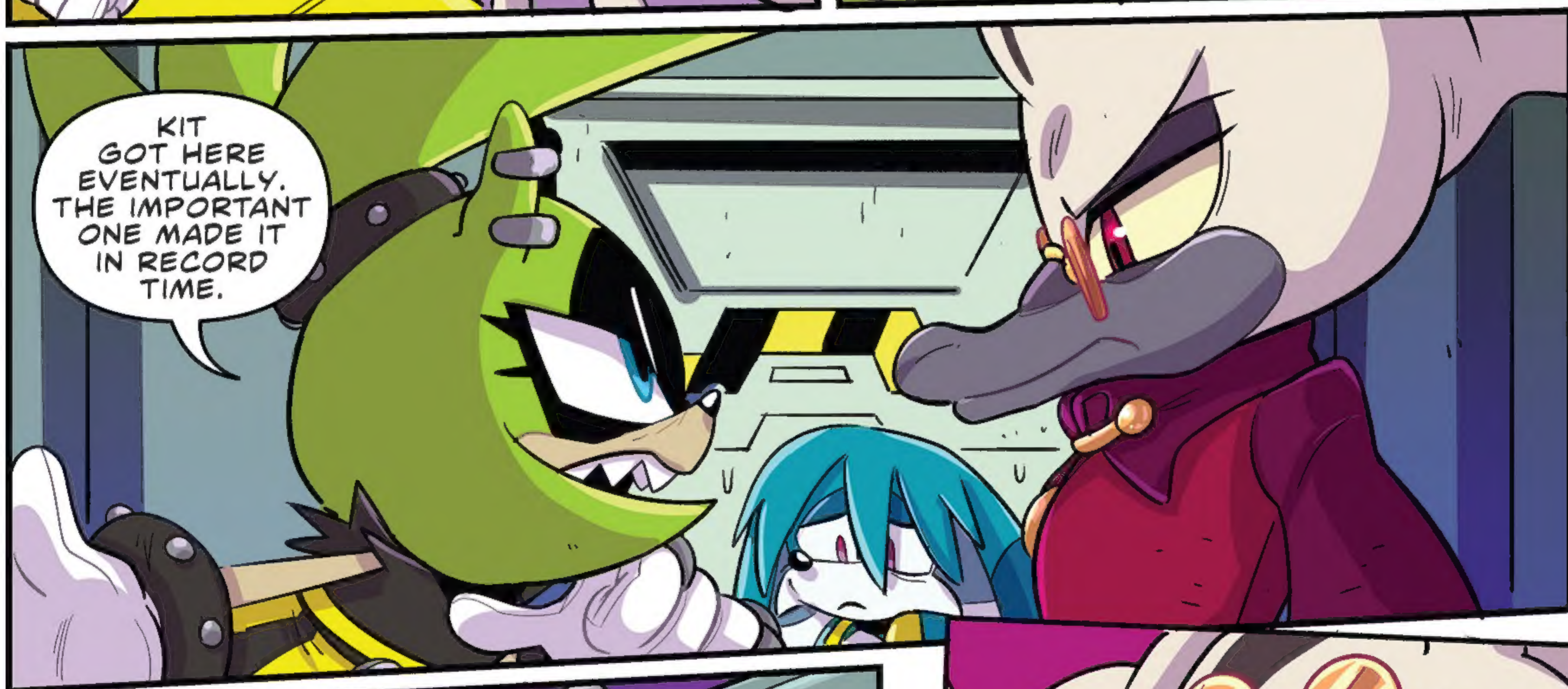
SHUNK

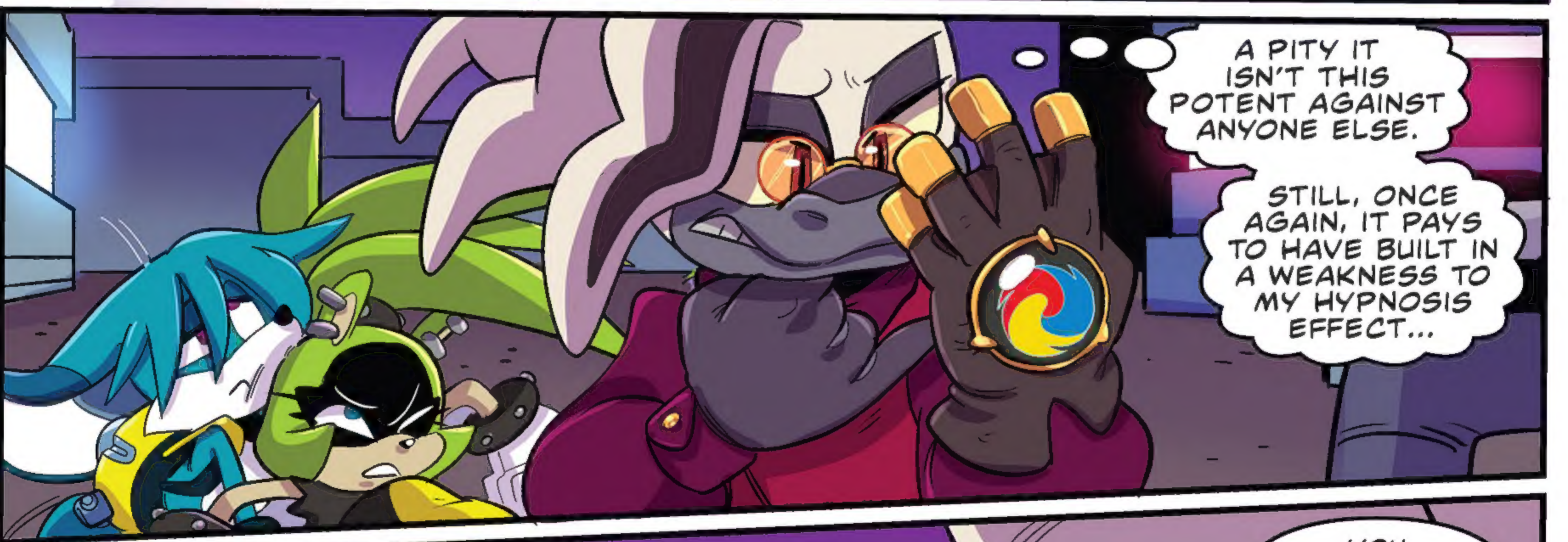


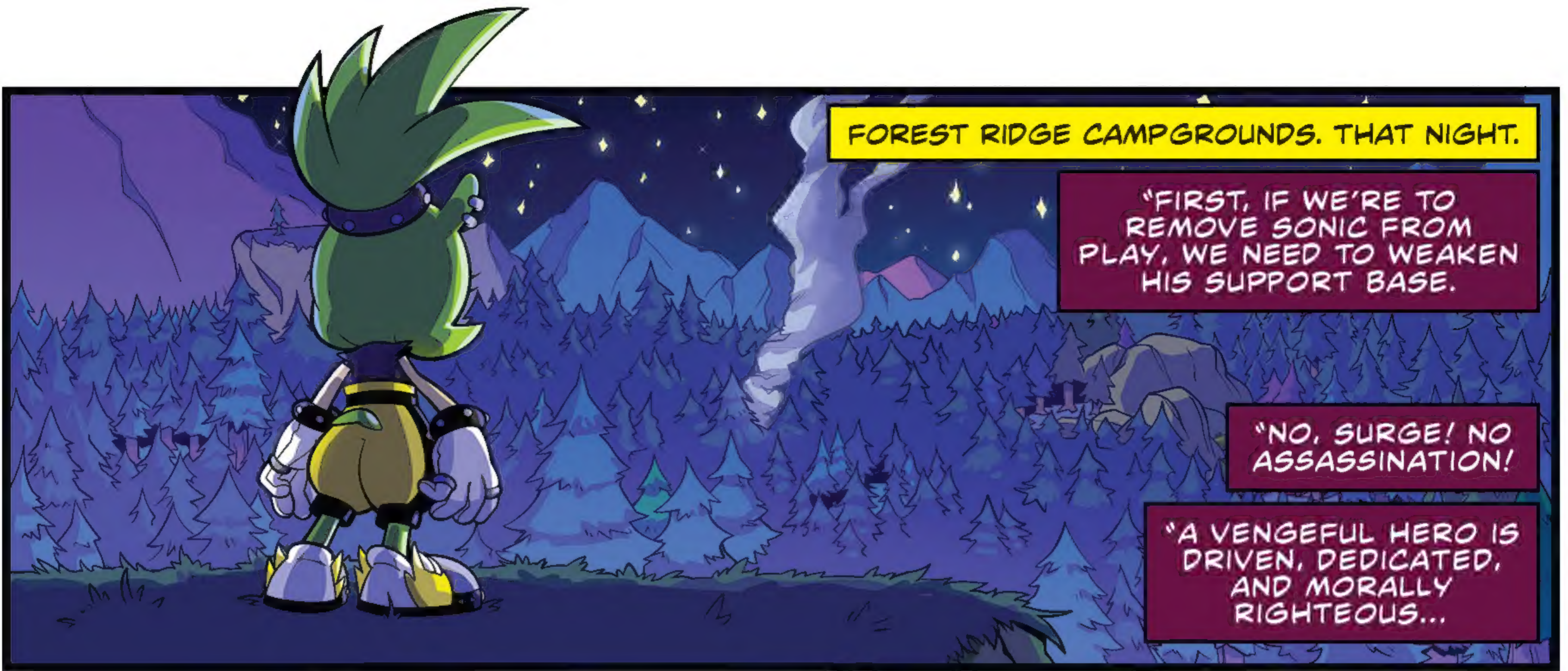
"THUS KITSUNAMI WAS MODELED AFTER SONIC'S MOST BENEFICIAL ALLY: TAILS."

Y-YES, MA'AM. THANK YOU, MA'AM.









FOREST RIDGE CAMPGROUNDS. THAT NIGHT.

"FIRST, IF WE'RE TO REMOVE SONIC FROM PLAY, WE NEED TO WEAKEN HIS SUPPORT BASE."

"NO, SURGE! NO ASSASSINATION!"

"A VENGEFUL HERO IS DRIVEN, DEDICATED, AND MORALLY RIGHTEOUS..."



"...BUT A HERO SUFFERING FROM A TRAGIC LOSS FROM A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT? THAT ONE'S BROKEN AND MOROSE."

LET'S SEE SONIC SAVE ALL YOU HAPPY CAMPERS FROM THIS.



CENTRAL CITY. DAYS LATER.

"SECONDLY, WHILE I KNOW HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, I NEED TO ASSESS YOUR FINESSE."

"OUR FIRST REAL MISSION MUST BE CLANDESTINE. SO I WANT YOU TO SOW CHAOS AND NOT GET CAUGHT."

LOOK AT 'EM. ACTING LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD. DIDN'T THE ZOMBOTS TEAR THIS CITY APART NOT TOO LONG AGO?*

THE RESTORATION HELPED THEM REBUILD. I-I-I THINK THEY JUST WANT TO BE... HAPPY...?

*STH#21

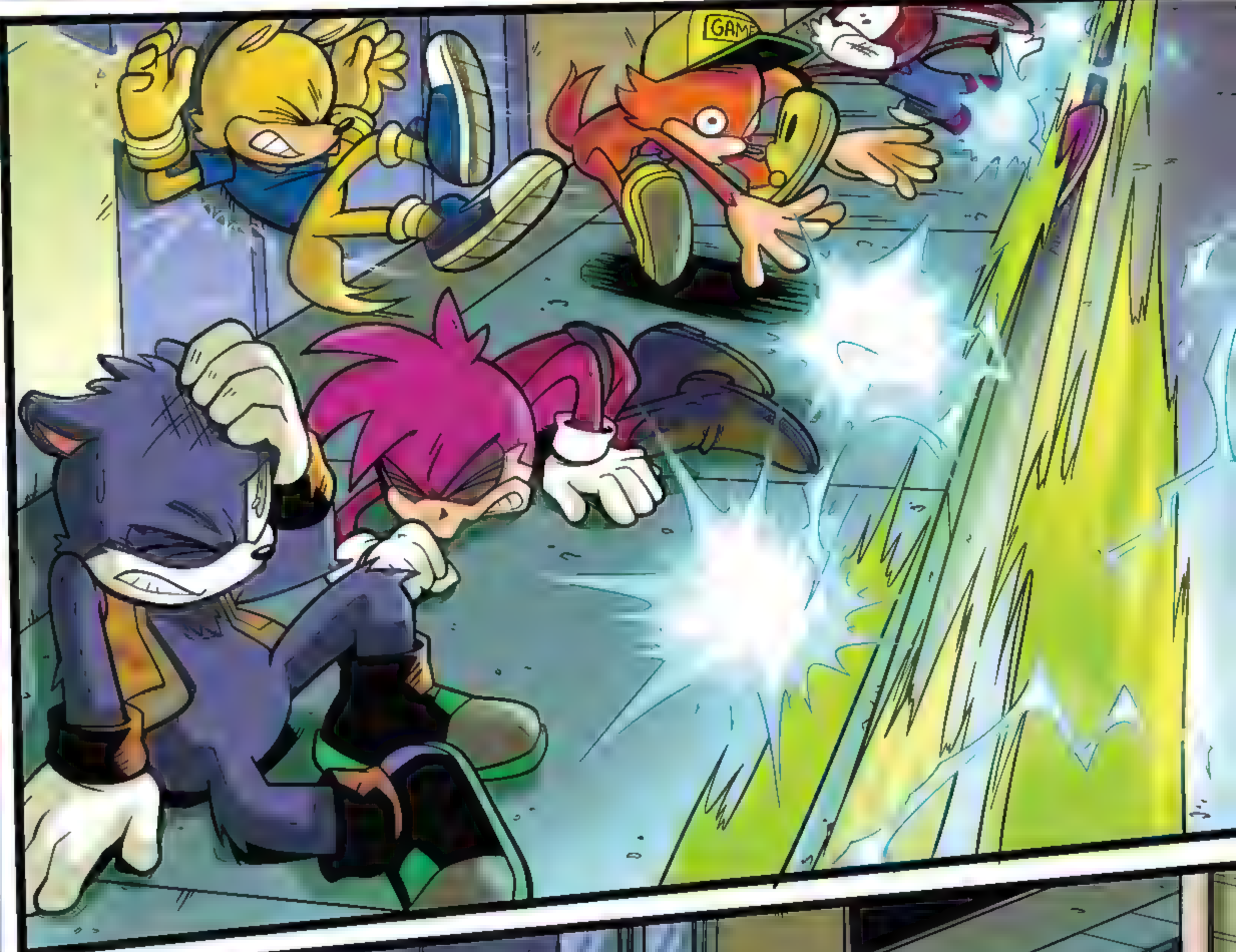
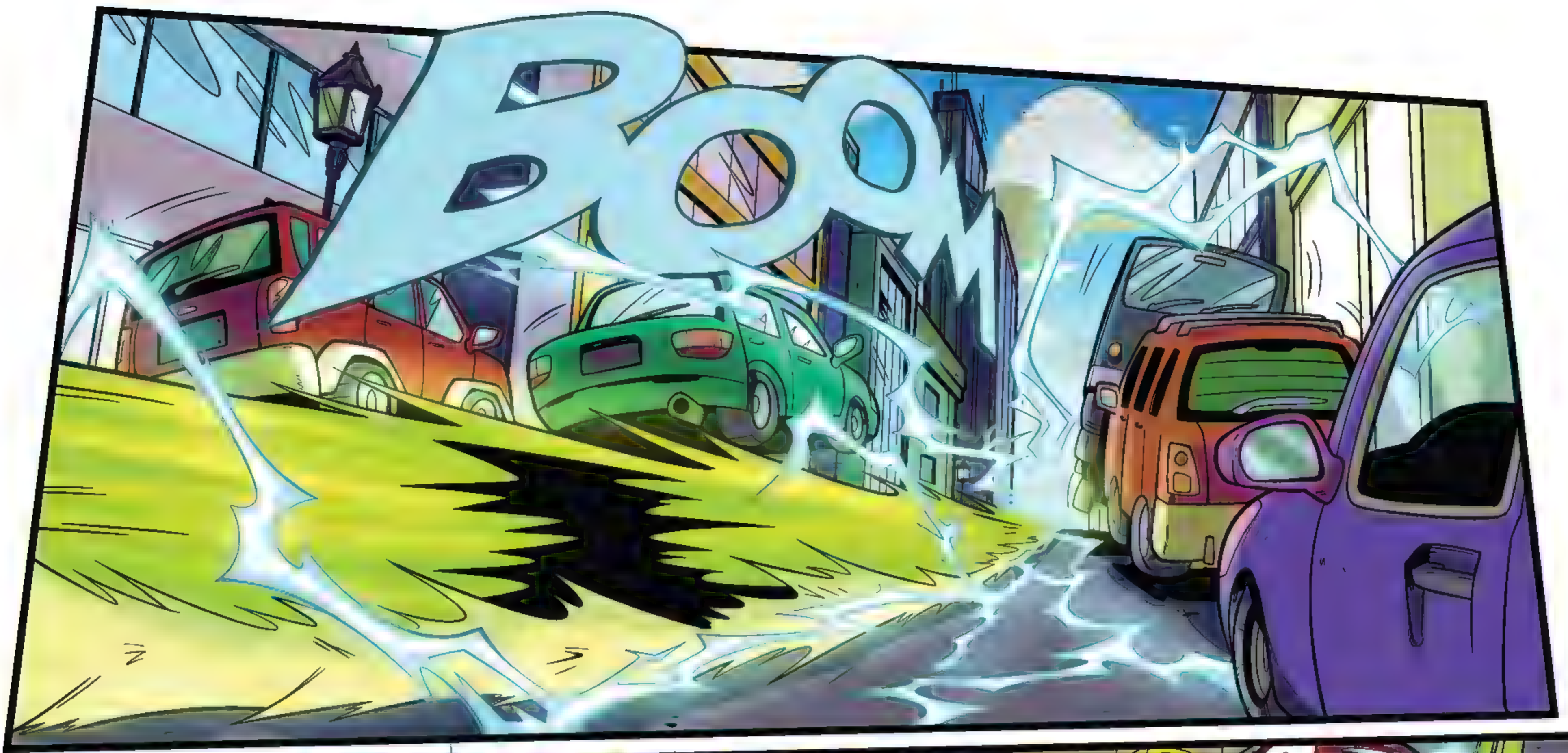
SUCKS TO BE THEM, 'CUZ I AIM TO MISBEHAVE.

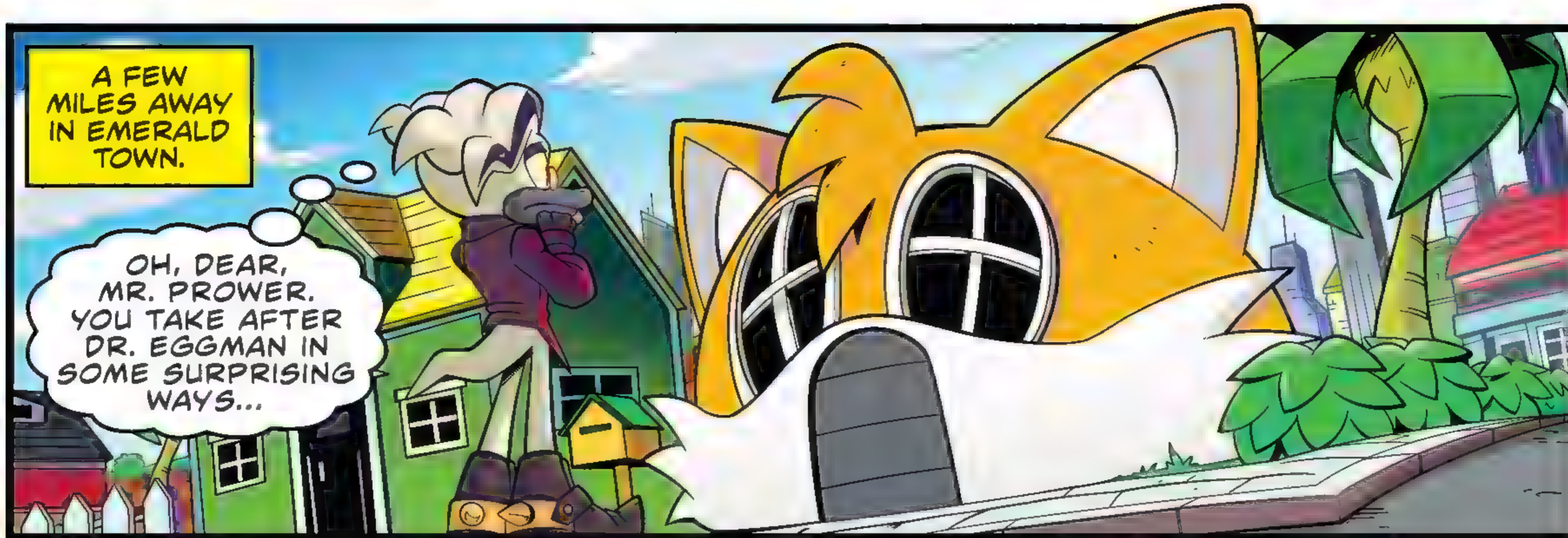
I CAN USE MY HYDRO-COIL TAILS TO REACH UNDERGROUND, ACCESS AND MANIPULATE THE WIRING, AND THROW THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND POWER GRIDS INTO DISARRAY!

UH-HUH. YOU HAVE FUN WITH THAT.

I'MMA GO FAST!

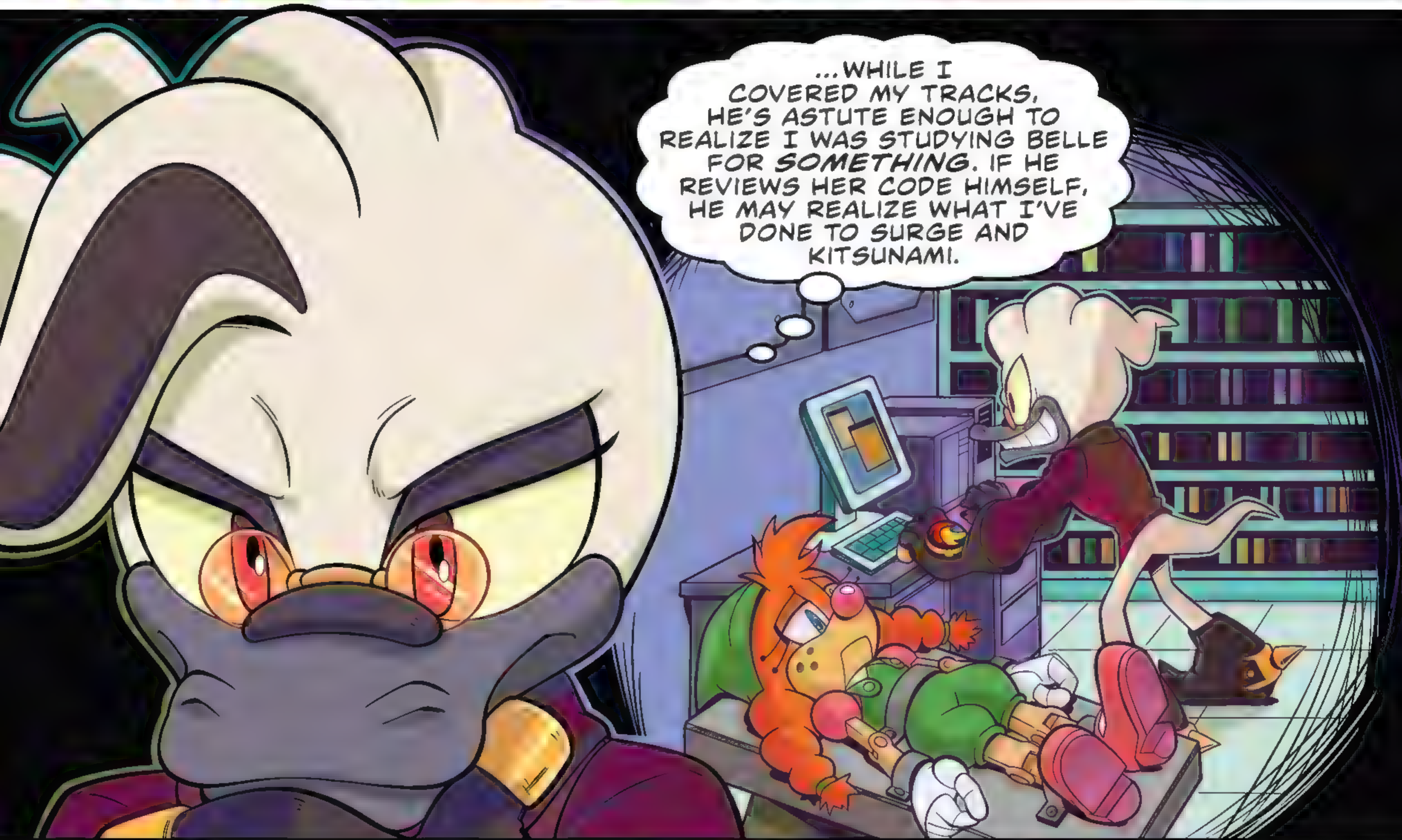
W-WELL... YES... THERE'S THAT, TOO...



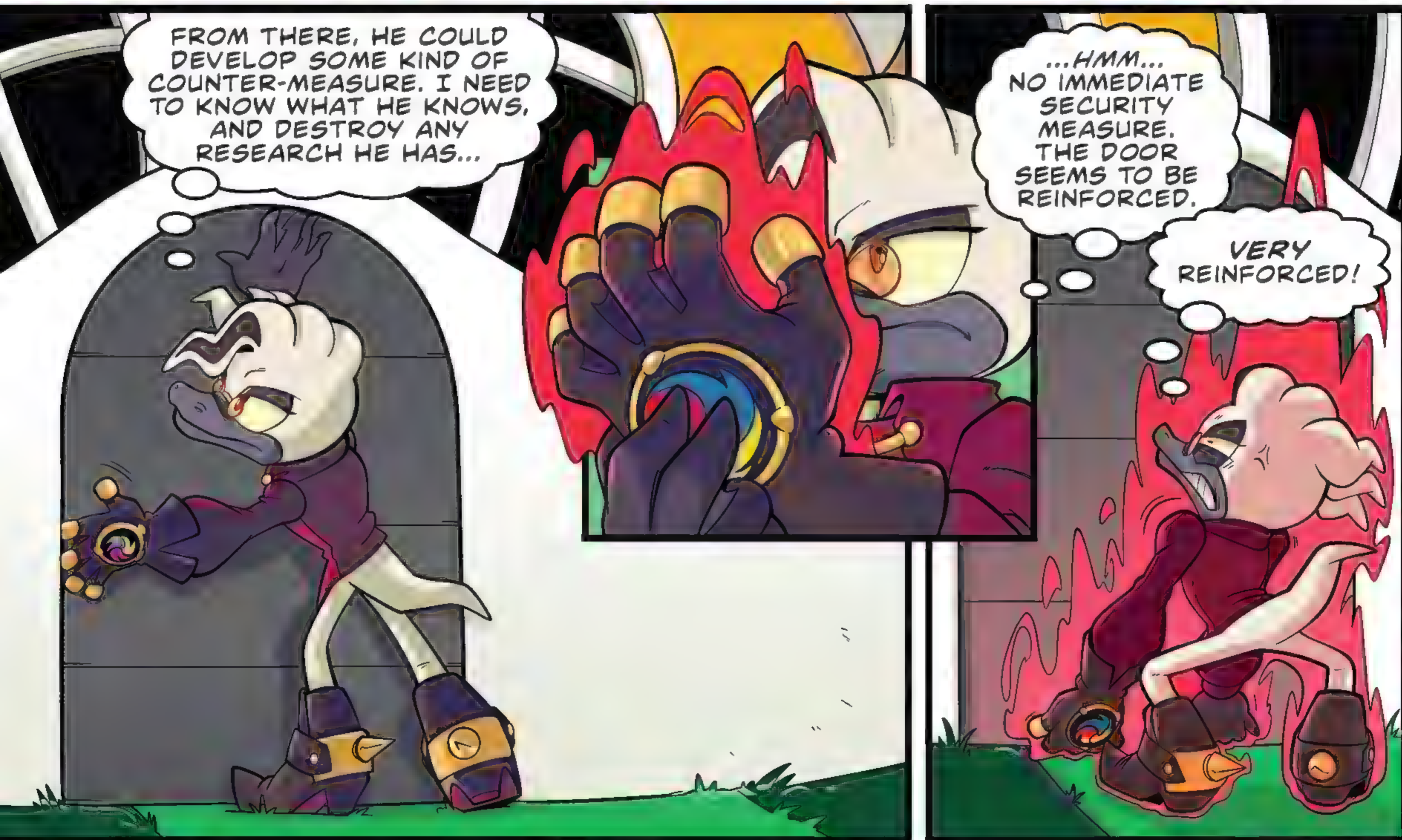


A FEW
MILES AWAY
IN EMERALD
TOWN.

OH, DEAR,
MR. PROWER.
YOU TAKE AFTER
DR. EGGMAN IN
SOME SURPRISING
WAYS...



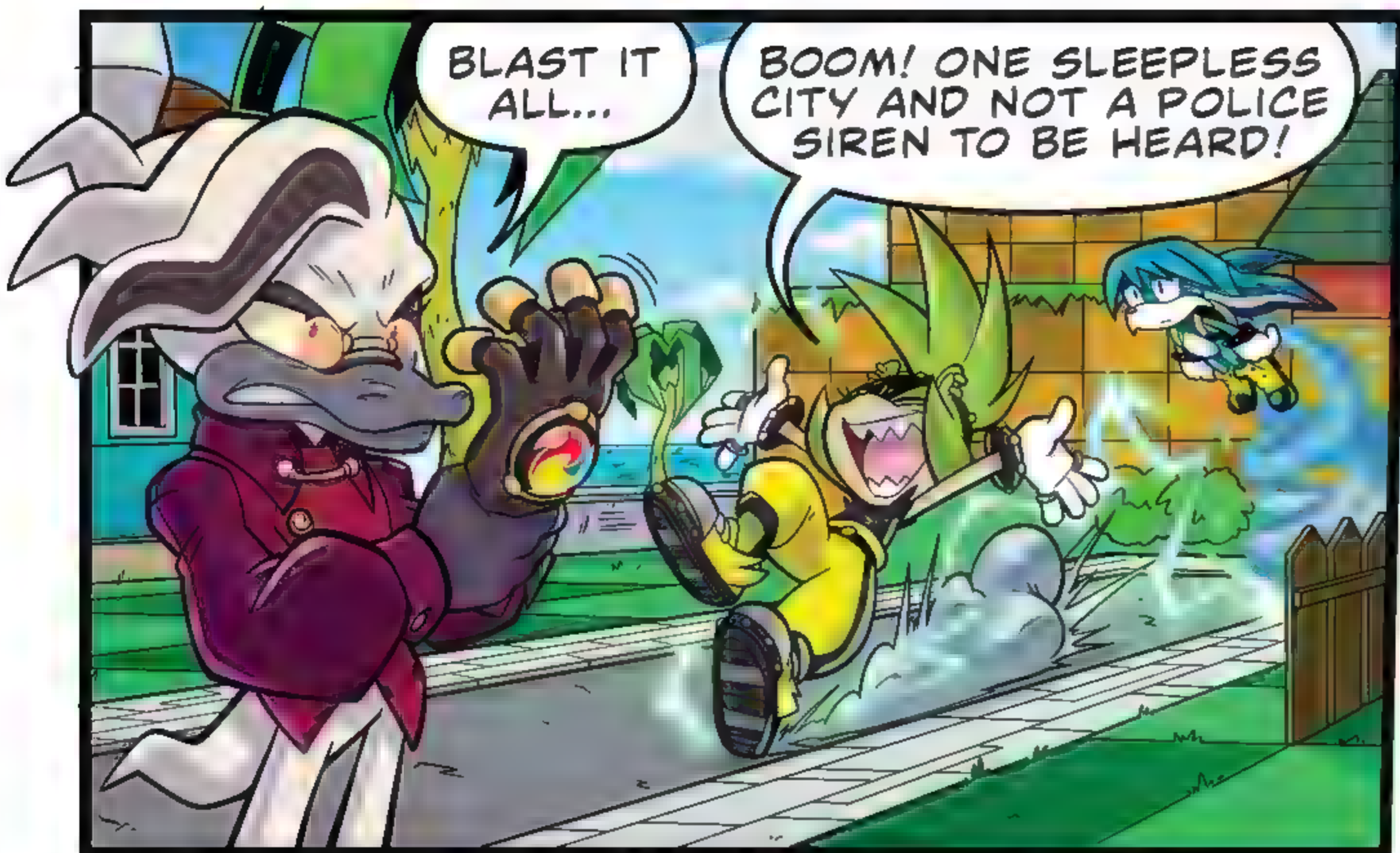
...WHILE I
COVERED MY TRACKS,
HE'S ASTUTE ENOUGH TO
REALIZE I WAS STUDYING BELLE
FOR *SOMETHING*. IF HE
REVIEWS HER CODE HIMSELF,
HE MAY REALIZE WHAT I'VE
DONE TO SURGE AND
KITSUNAMI.

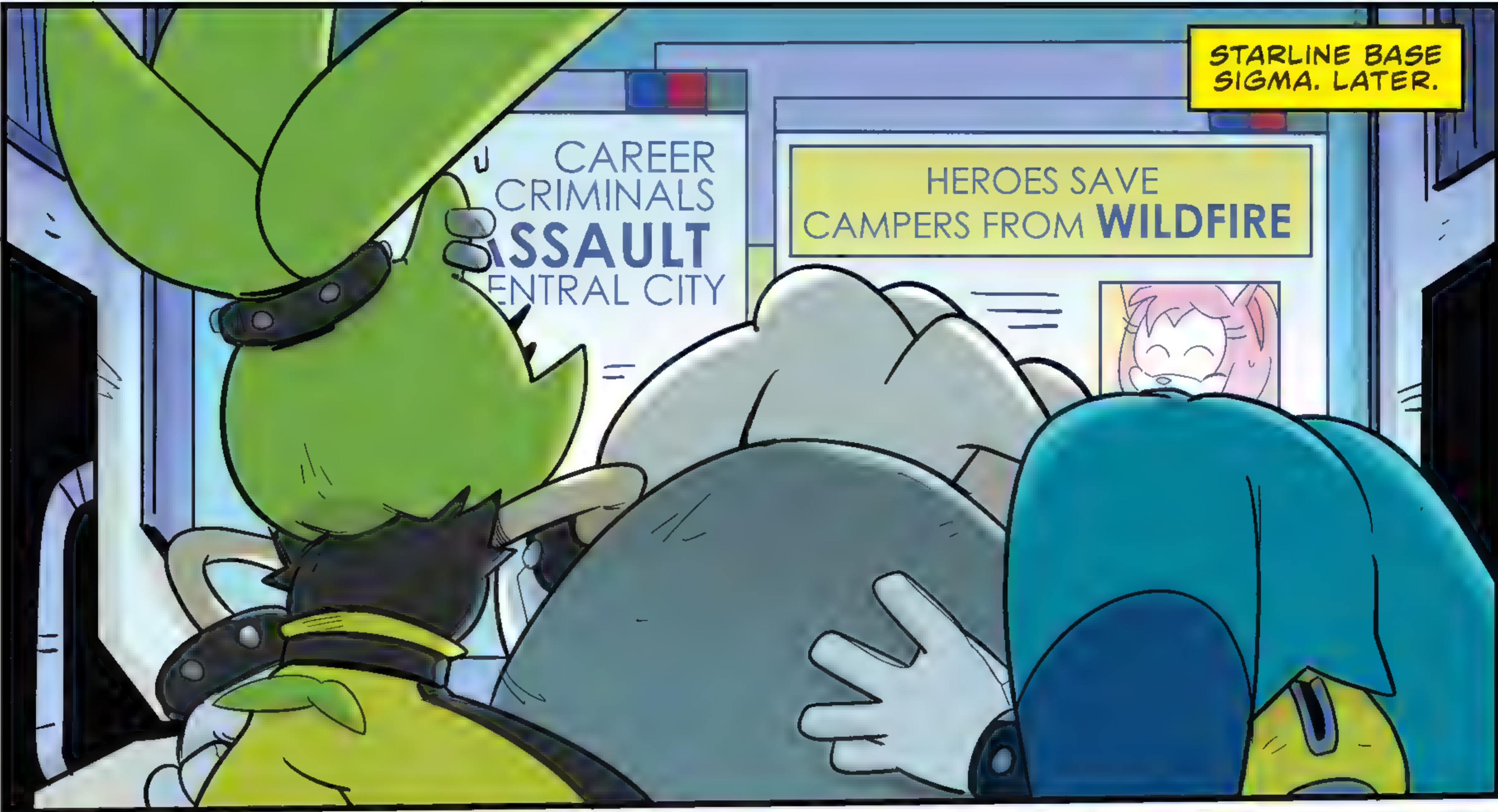


FROM THERE, HE COULD
DEVELOP SOME KIND OF
COUNTER-MEASURE. I NEED
TO KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS,
AND DESTROY ANY
RESEARCH HE HAS...

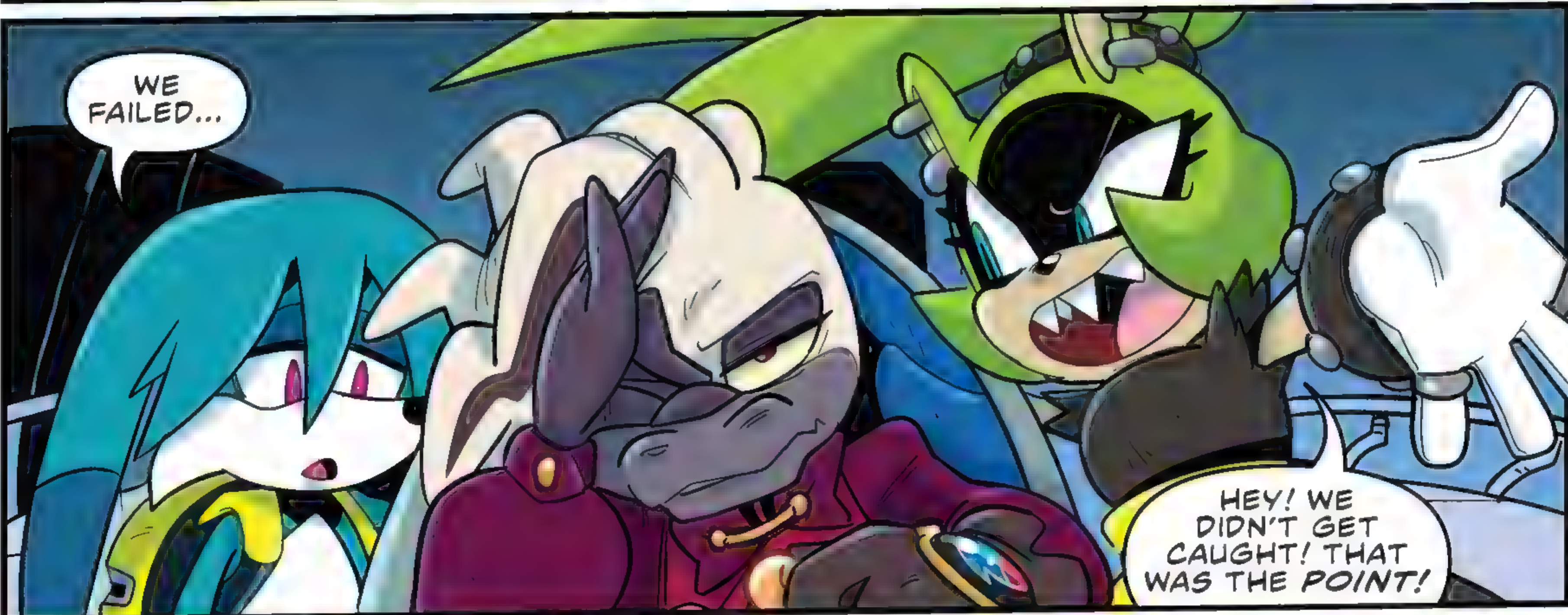
...HMM...
NO IMMEDIATE
SECURITY
MEASURE.
THE DOOR
SEEMS TO BE
REINFORCED.

VERY
REINFORCED!





STARLINE BASE
SIGMA. LATER.



WE
FAILED...

HEY! WE
DIDN'T GET
CAUGHT! THAT
WAS THE POINT!



I WANTED TO
DEAL WITH SONIC'S
GAL PALS DIRECTLY.
SOMEBODY WANTED
TO TRUST A WALL OF
STUPID FLAME.

A CLOSE CALL
FOR THEM ISN'T ANY
BETTER OR WORSE
THAN DR. EGGMAN'S
TRACK RECORD.



WHATEVER.
WE DID GOOD,
RIGHT?

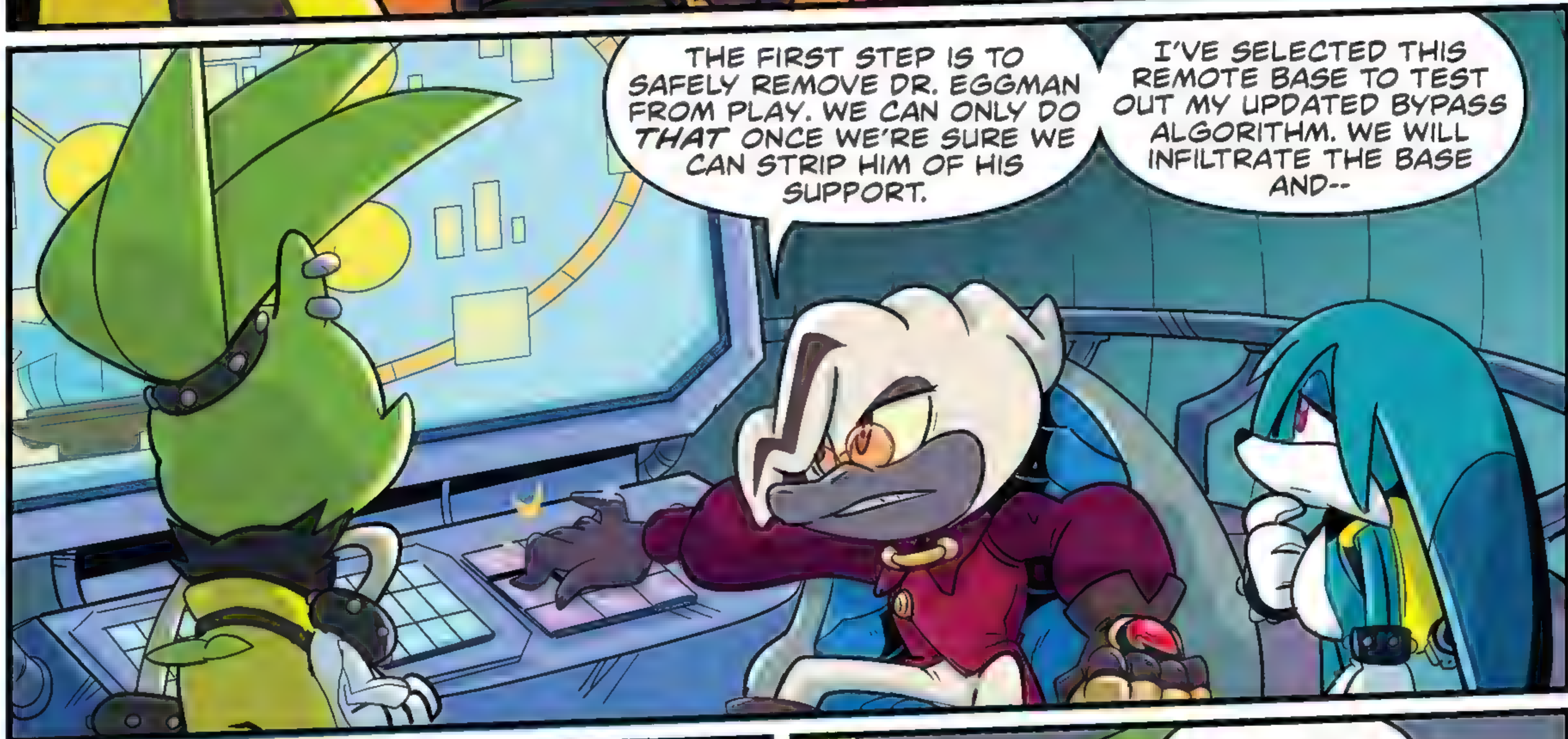
YOU DID
"WELL."
AND SO NOW
IT'S FINALLY
TIME...

AW,
YEAH!



...FOR
THE FINAL
TEST!

OH,
COME
ON!

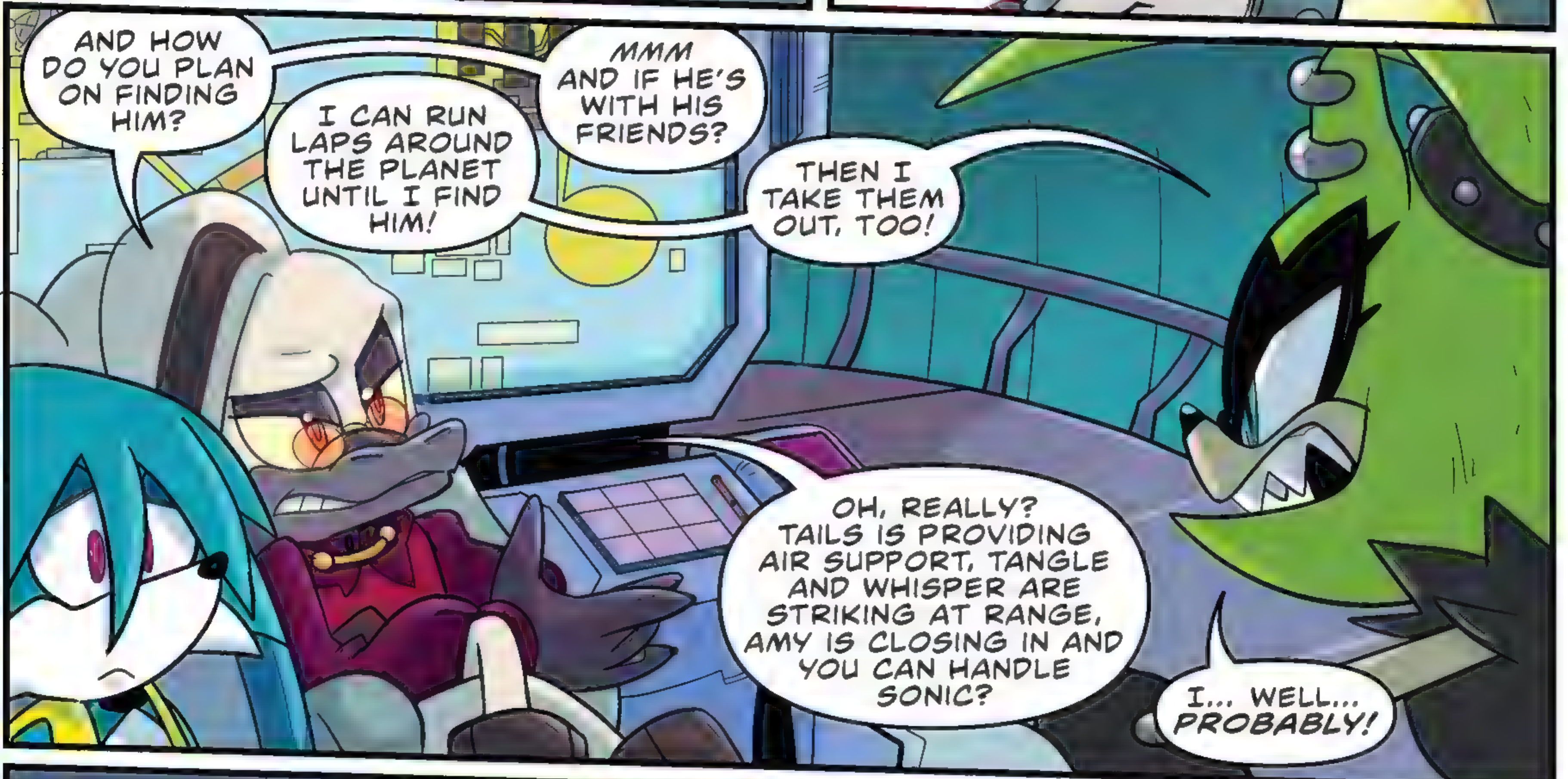




LOOK, I GET YOU BRAINY-TYPES LIKE TO THINK OF ALL THE ANGLES. BUT ME AND THAT FAKER BOY ARE SIMPLE CREATURES.



I HIT HIM FAST, I HIT HIM HARD, AND I KEEP HITTING UNTIL HE DOESN'T MOVE ANYMORE.



AND HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FINDING HIM?

I CAN RUN LAPS AROUND THE PLANET UNTIL I FIND HIM!

MMM AND IF HE'S WITH HIS FRIENDS?

THEN I TAKE THEM OUT, TOO!

OH, REALLY? TAILS IS PROVIDING AIR SUPPORT, TANGLE AND WHISPER ARE STRIKING AT RANGE, AMY IS CLOSING IN AND YOU CAN HANDLE SONIC?

I... WELL... PROBABLY!



KIT WOULD BE HANDLING ALL THOSE WORTHLESS EXTRAS!

I-I-I'D DO MY B-B-BEST...

POKE



DON'T PATRONIZE ME! I'LL DROWN YOU WITH YOUR OWN TAILS!

EEK







WHEN I USED BELLE'S BASE CODE TO WRITE PERSONALITIES FOR THEM, I EXPECTED A LITTLE MORE STABILITY!

MAYBE THE DIFFERENCE WAS SHE WAS BUILT FROM SCRATCH? OR IS IT A BYPRODUCT OF...?



THIS RESISTANCE TO THE HYPNOTIC CONTROL IS ALSO AN UNWELCOME BUG.



I'VE INVESTED TOO MUCH IN THEM NOW TO START OVER. I'LL JUST HAVE TO HANDLE THEM WITH MORE CARE.

ONCE WE BEGIN TO FULFILL THEIR PRIMARY DIRECTIVES, THEIR PERSONALITIES SHOULD EVEN OUT.



SHOW TIME.





YOU WANTED TO COMPLETE ONE MORE OPTIMIZATION TEST. I WANTED TO PUSH AHEAD INTO THE MAIN MISSION. TEMPER FLARED AND... WELL, HERE WE ARE.

I'M SORRY. YOU WERE RIGHT. WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH THE FINAL TESTING PHASE IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.



HUH. THAT SOUND RIGHT TO YOU?

I DO WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE, MA'AM.

ALL RIGHT THEN. SURE. WE'LL... UH... DO THE TEST. WHAT'S THE PLAN?



THE FIRST STEP IS TO SAFELY REMOVE DR. EGGMAN FROM PLAY. WE CAN ONLY DO THAT ONCE WE'RE SURE WE CAN STRIP HIM OF HIS SUPPORT.

I'VE SELECTED THIS REMOTE BASE TO TEST OUT MY UPDATED BYPASS ALGORITHM. WE WILL INFILTRATE THE BASE AND THEN...

NEXT TIME:
STRESS TEST!



NEXT MONTH



SONIC

LETTERS SQUAD

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

Hello, Imposters! Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Thomas Rothlisberger, Aaron Hammerstrom, Matt Froese, Valentina Pinto, and Shawn Lee for the very first issue of Imposter Syndrome! Surge and Kit have been getting lots of love since they were announced, so let's check out your art featuring the devious duo!

Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, a surge of tests leaves the imposters in need of a repair kit!



ART BY
KYMANI



ART BY
JONATHAN



PLUSHIES BY
SOMETHINGSONICRELATED



ART BY
LSS



ART BY
KYLE

Kyle Ammon
© 21



ART MAURO FONSECA COLORS JOANA LAFUENTE



ART THOMAS ROTH LISBERGER **COLORS** VALENTINA PINTO



ART EVAN STANLEY

ON YOUR MARKS. GET SET. **GO!**



IAN FLYNN • TRACY YARDLEY
EVAN STANLEY • ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
JENNIFER HERNANDEZ

Oversized hardcover editions of IDW's celebrated **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** comic books, including the ongoing series, annuals, and mini-series, all presented in recommended reading order.

**EVERYTHING A BEGINNER COULD NEED,
EVERYTHING A DIEHARD COULD WANT!**

Volume One collects the first 12 issues
(Fallout, The Fate of Dr. Eggman, and Battle for Angel Island)



IDW @IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM

©SEGA



**FULL-THROTTLE TALES TO CELEBRATE THE BLUE BLUR'S BIG YEAR!
NOW WITH EXPANDED STORY CONTENT, INTERVIEWS,
A COVER GALLERY, AND MORE!**

**FEATURING FAN FAVORITES
IAN FLYNN • AARON HAMMERSTROM • REGGIE GRAHAM
MAURO FONSECA • THOMAS ROTH LISBERGER**

**AND WELCOMING NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHORS
GALE GALLIGAN (THE BABYSITTERS CLUB)
AND THE MCELROY BROTHERS (THE ADVENTURE ZONE)!**